

Murray, Clayton Charles

Sept 1913 - June 1914

561

Of late the public has heard much with regard to the financial distress of the University. For the past year and more statements have been issued by the Board of Governors announcing that during the present academic year there would be a large deficit. They trace this to several causes. The decrease in succession duties, the University share of which fell from \$500,000 in 1909-10 to \$423,000 in 1912-13. At the same time there has been a steady increase in the amount of annual interest and sinking fund on the University debentures issued to erect new buildings. These grew from over \$25,000 in 1910 to \$60,000 in the present year. These annual payments are the first charge on the maintenance account. At the same time the University has been growing and as in all other institutions expenses have been rising. The result is that during the current year there is a deficit of over \$80,000.

These facts have been laid before the Government and with their permission the Chairman of the Board of Governors and the President of the University addressed^{ed} the House in Committee setting before them the present situation of the University. We understand that the Government has placed the sum of \$80,000 in the Supplementary estimates to meet the present deficit, but that relieves the situation only till June 30th of the present year. With the first of July a new academic year opens, and estimates have to be prepared at once. We are informed that the Governors announced to the Government that as the reserve had now been exhausted it would be necessary to provide \$120,000 for the maintenance of the forthcoming year even if the University is to have no definite expansion. The Governor:

pointed out that in the future the annual maintenance of the University and the building programme should be kept separate and that they should have at their disposal a yearly increasing amount to meet the growing requirements of the University, to do justice to the staff and the teaching. At the same time the pressure for space not only continues but increases and demands that have been made now for several years must soon be met. They outlined a building programme which should be completed in the next five or six years involving a capital outlay of nearly a million and a half dollars. Of this amount two items are of pressing necessity, one of \$100,000 is the University share for the gymnasium in the new Hart House, which is being erected by the Massey Estate on a very generous scale; the other of \$100,000 for the completion of the Faculty of Education building and Schools. The financing of these building operations, however, could not be done by the grant of \$120,000 for the maintenance of the coming year. It would have to stand by itself.

These demands of the University at first sight may seem to be very large, but a comparison with other Universities, which is given in another part of this journal shows that the University of Toronto is being conducted on a scale that is quite low for what is possible for a first class institution. The difference in expense for the conduct of Universities on both sides of the line must necessarily be very similar. A University of the first class will cost nearly the same in the United States and in Canada. The question therefore simply is whether the Province is to have a University of the first class and one that can be parallel with the great institutions south of the line or whether we are to have one or more second class institutions. The University cannot

long continue as it is without being so injured that it cannot maintain its present advantageous position. It is much easier to reduce an institution to a second order than it is to bring it up again to the first order. At present the University of Toronto is rapidly becoming an institution of the first order in all its faculties, and this fact we believe is appreciated by the Province. If the University were to be reduced to the second order, an exodus would set in to the Universities of the first class in the United States. The best students would be drawn off to Chicago, Michigan, Cornell, Pennsylvania and Harvard, because there is probably a larger proportion of the youth of this Province than of any other part of this continent which must get a professional training of the highest standard, and when these will have once gone they will remain for the most part in the country in which they have been finally educated. To-day we see the result of this in the many institutions of the United States which have graduates of Canadian Universities on their staffs, and also in the professions in the large cities of the Republic. It is therefore essential ~~that~~ the welfare of this Province and of the Dominion that the University continue to be maintained at the highest possible standard and that we develop in such a way as to give the youth of the Province the best advantages.

It is replied, however, that there are institutions in the Province that are now demanding Government help. It is not our intention to express any opinion as to how far these demands may be met except to say that there must be at least one University of the first order in this Province, the Provincial University. If other Colleges or Universities

are to receive help it should be given on the condition that there is no unnecessary reduplication of expensive professional teaching, that there should be no waste of the resources of the Province in the second best way in several places what the Province can only afford to do in the very best way in one place, and that if money is to be given to various institutions of higher learning as far as possible the same standard of work should be maintained in those institutions that are receiving such Government aid.

September 22nd, 1913

President Murray,

University of Saskatchewan.

My dear Murray:

Mr. Bretner tells me that he has written to the young lady to whom you refer asking for more information. He is of opinion that there will be some subjects that she would have to make up from the earlier years. However, the Committee will I am sure do the best for her that is in their power. Possibly if she understands that the fourth year here involves pretty hard work she may think it will give her too little chance to see Toronto and enjoy life.

I have been intending to write to you for some time, but strange to say there has been no spare time since I got back. We are getting our arrangements completed for the opening of the term next Tuesday, and there are a good many odds and ends to be attended to. I shall write you later at more length on personal matters and try to make a letter worth reading out of it.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

President Murray,

April 1st, 1914

University of Saskatchewan.

My dear Murray:

Where you are I do not know, because there has been a letter lying on my desk addressed to you from the University of Saskatchewan for the last few days. However, I will write to you in case you have not left home. The primary cause of my writing is to ask you on behalf of Silas McBea, Editor of the "Constructive Quarterly" of New York, to write him an article for his September issue on the proposed union of churches in Canada. I do not know whether or not you have seen the "Constructive Quarterly", but I am sending you a copy in which you will see their aims. I told the editor that I knew you well, and the fact that you are a layman and hold an educational position in the West appeals to him very strongly. He would have to receive the article by the first of June. You are the one man in Canada to do it for such a Quarterly, and I hope that you will do it. I am also writing to Archbishop Watneson for a second article that he wants later, but yours will be the long and important one.

I hope to see you down before I go away. Strange to say we are going across the water this summer to Sweden and Norway. I do not leave till the middle of June, but Mrs. F sails on the 26th of May for Stockholm, where she is to be a delegate to a Y.W.C.A. meeting.

I hope that you have got through your session satisfactorily. We are just in the deep waters of financial distress. Yesterday afternoon Sir Edmund Walker Walker and I met the members of the Legislature, and left them I am sure, with an idea of the seriousness of the situation. What the

(President Murray)

2

April 1st, 1914

outcome is to be I cannot tell, but you may imagine that it is not all plain sailing just at present.

Worton left last night for Vancouver. I suppose you may see him before he comes back.

Be sure and write the article, and will you write to Silas McBee himself, 200 Fifth Avenue, New York, and let him know what you are going to do ?

Yours sincerely,

President.

560
May 18th, 1914

President Murray,

University of Saskatchewan.

My dear Murray:

You probably know by this time that I have agreed to the urgent representation of the Alberta Government to take the Chairmanship of the Commission on which you and Mackenzie have agreed to act. Had you not been on it I do not think I should have acted, but our Governors are of opinion that it is a service which ^{we} ought to render to the new Province if we can. It means cutting a week off my holiday, but I note to be in Edmonton by September 3rd.

Have you any suggestions as to how we should proceed? I have asked Mr. Boyle to provide information with regard to the schools of the Province, and the districts from which the university population will be drawn: also, for a full account of the growth of the University. If there is anything that you think of, please let me know?

I am leaving here on the 14th of June. You will be glad to hear that we have given an honorary degree to Chief Justice Haultain, but he will not be down to get it until next June. I note everything is going well with you.

Yours sincerely,

President.

553

June 8th, 1914

President Murray,

University of Saskatchewan.

My dear Murray:

Many thanks for your letter. I expect to sail back on the 19th of August and to reach Edmonton about the 3rd of September. I hope that a week will be sufficient for us. Until I have seen the situation and know the facts I cannot form any opinion, but you are so near and so many of your conditions are similar to those in Alberta that your judgment will be of the greatest value.

I need a rest and intend to do practically nothing for the next two months. By the end of this week I hope to have most of the business completed and to go away with a certain measure of freedom. I hope that you also will get a decent holiday, though if you remain in Saskatchewan I am afraid that this will not be the case. To-day Mrs. Falconer should arrive in Stockholm, and I hope to join her about the third of July.

With kind regards to you and yours,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

June 13th, 1914

President Murray,

University of Saskatchewan.

My dear Murray:

I am leaving to-morrow for Europe and sail back by the "Victorian" on August 19th.

On my return should we go direct to Edmonton first? I think I can arrive there on the 2nd of September, or the third at the latest. It will probably be right for us to see the Government first. My plan now is to take the C.E.R. to Winnipeg on the night of August 29, if possible, and then to take the C.T.P. from Winnipeg to Edmonton. How would that suit?

My permanent address is care of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, 2 Lombard Street, E.C., London. They will forward letters for me.

I saw Norton two or three days ago and he told me that he thought you looked tired. You certainly should have a holiday. You cannot go on working as you do without a rest quite away from your work.

With kind regards to all,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

